

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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CHP JOINS WITH PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) along with other state and federal agencies and private companies, is urging motorists to exercise extra caution when driving near large commercial vehicles.

At a press conference in the Sierras, representatives of the CHP along with the United States Department of Transportation, the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the California Office of Traffic Safety, the California Trucking Association, the Nevada Motor Transport Association and the North State Bus Operators Association pointed out the importance of sharing the road safely with large commercial vehicles.

“Sharing the road means being a responsible driver, regardless of the type of vehicle you’re driving,” said CHP Assistant Commissioner Don Menzmer. “Drivers in cars must realize that large commercial vehicles need extra distance to stop. Motorists need to be aware of a truck driver’s “blind spots” and keep their vehicles out of these ‘No Zones’.”

In California last year, more than 7,253 fatal and injury crashes involving at least one passenger car and one large truck occurred. In 60 percent of all fatal collisions involving autos and big trucks, the auto driver was found to be the primary cause of the crash.

“It is critical that motorists know how to share the road with trucks to avoid remaining in the ‘No Zones’,” Menzmer said. “Seeing and being seen is the best way to avoid a collision.”

- M O R E -

Dignitaries from the federal and both state governments as well as transportation-related industries attended the event. The “Zone Ranger” and the Crash Test Dummies were also present. Private sector displays included Roadway’s big rig and Cherokee Tours’ 45 foot motorcoach demonstrating the “No Zone.” The CHP, NHP, Caltrans and other public and private agencies also had safety displays available for everyone to see.

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